

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06904 151100Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /127 W

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P 151037Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 241

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6904

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH, US

SUBJECT: ROC REACTION TO US-PRC COMMUNIQUE OF NOVEMBER 14

REF: TAIPEI 6887

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. INITIAL REACTION HERE TO NOVEMBER 14 COMMUNIQUE LARGELY ONE OF RELIEF THAT NOTHING MORE PORTENTIOUS HAD OCCURRED. THIS MAY BE TRUE AT LEAST IN PART BECAUSE LOCAL REPORTING HAS EMPHASIZED PORTIONS OF COMMUNIQUE DEALING WITH EXPANSION OF LIAISON OFFICES FUNCTIONS, AND HAS NOT YET FOCUSED TO ANY DEGREE ON POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF "NORMALIZATIONS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE US CAN BE REALIZED ONLY ON BASIS OF CONFIRMING PRINCIPLE OF ONE CHINA." STIMULATED BY THE SECRETARY'S NEWS BACK- GROUNDER, HOWEVER, THIS SENTENCE LIKELY TO BE PICKED UP LATER AND BECOME THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE--AND SOME OF IT ANXIOUS--SPECULATION.

2. THUS FAR, ONLY THREE PAPERS HAVE COMMENTED

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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 06904 151100Z

EDITORIALLY: LIEN HO PAO (REPORTED BY USINFO), MIN TSU

WAN PAO (WHICH FOLLOWED LHP LEAD RATHER CLOSELY), AND OFFICIAL CHUNG YANG JIH PAO WHICH DECLARED THE COMMUNIQUE OFFENSIVE TO ALL CHINESE HERE AND ABROAD AND CALLED IT AN "IRRADICABLE BLACK SPOT" IN TRADITIONAL SINO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP. THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT.

3. MOST PROBABLY THE LINE TAKEN IN LIEN HO PAO WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE SEMI-OFFICIAL STAND DESPITE INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS AMONG PARTS OF THE ANALYSIS: SERIOUS DISPUTES STILL DIVIDE WASHINGTON AND PEKING; CHOU EN-LAI IS HOBBOLED BY INTERNAL DISSENT AND CANNOT MOVE FORWARD IN US-PRC RELATIONS WHILE NIXON IS SIMILARLY SHACKLED BY WATERGATE; US CONTINUES TO PLAY WITH FIRE AND IS SURE TO BE BURNT; WE ON TAIWAN NEED NOT FEAR SINCE COMMITMENTS RE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY STAND.

4. IN CONTRAST TO PREMIER CHIANG'S COMPLETELY TRADITIONAL NOVEMBER 13 STATEMENT TO KMT CENTRAL COMMITTEE RE ROC'S OLD CLAIMS TO LEGITIMACY, MOFA STATEMENT (REFTEL) IS ONE OF THE MILD OF THE STATEMENTS ISSUED FOLLOWING HIGH-LEVEL VISIT TO PEKING. IT OMITTS CLAIMS THAT US ACTION CONTRAVENES WISHES OF CHINESE PEOPLE, OR THAT ROC IS ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA, BOTH OF WHICH APPEARED IN FEBRUARY 22, 1973 STATEMENT. ADDITIONALLY, IT DECLARES NULL AND VOID ANY UNDERSTANDING OR AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND PRC THAT INVOLVES THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF ROC, ALTHOUGH FEBRUARY 22, 1973 STATEMENT (BUT NOT SOME OF THE OTHERS) SIMPLY CALLED ALL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN US AND PRC NULL AND VOID. MOFA OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THAT STATEMENT WAS ONE OF SEVERAL CONTINGENCY DRAFTS PREPARED AT REQUEST OF FONMIN, INCLUDING ONE DEALING WITH WITHDRAWAL OF ALL US FORCES FROM TAIWAN. THIS PARTICULAR OFFICIAL ALSO BELIEVED EXPANSION OF LIAISON OFFICES TO BE MAJOR RESULT OF VISIT AND COMMENTED THAT MINISTRY RELIEVED IT WAS NOTHING WORSE. SOME, AT THE SENIOR MOST LEVELS, HAD BELIEVED LIAISON OFFICES MIGHT BE UPGRADED TO "MISSIONS"

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TAIPEI 06904 151100Z

(AS DISTINCT FROM EMBASSIES), HE SAID. THIS WOULD BE SEEN AS FURTHER STEP-BY-STEP PROGRESS TO FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND THEREFORE CAUSED MUCH FOREBODING. NEVERTHELESS, HE (LIKE MANY BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT) BELIEVES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO BE A MATTER OF TIME IN ANY CASE.

5. FULL REACTION WILL TAKE SEVERAL DAYS TO EMERGE

AND WILL BE ANALYZED IN LATER MESSAGES.  
GLEYSTEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, COMMUNIQUE, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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